

Puget Sound Science Update Products Implications for Policy Makers Agenda Item #05c

Prepared and Presented by: David St. John

Proposed Action: Briefing

Summary: This agenda item entails a briefing on the status of work to complete the Puget Sound Science Update Policy Implications document, the current timeline for the project, and the guiding questions that are being handed off to the Science Panel for the next steps of the project. The discussion will identify and address issues that have bearing on the project timeline and the scope and the wording of the guiding questions.

Background: The Policy Implications work was discussed with the Science Panel at the June 8th meeting. The project scope and guiding questions documents were revised based on that discussion. The project background and these documents were presented to the Ecosystem Coordination Board and Leadership Council at their respective July meetings. The ECB and LC briefings resulted in the addition of two questions to the guiding questions document and direction to engage now on the communications strategy for the product, ensuring that the general public is considered a key audience for the work.

Analysis: This discussion is a critical step in advancing work toward completion of the Policy Implications product. The project briefings for the ECB and LC, while reflective of the newness of the project to these groups, raised their interest and elicited useful feedback. They are primed to continue the science-policy dialog and to engage on the anticipated draft product from the Science Panel. Keeping the work moving will be important in maintaining focus and building from the dialog that was initiated in July.

Staff Recommendation:

1. Ensure the guiding questions are an appropriate and sufficient starting point for Science Panel engagement
2. Identify and resolve issues affecting the timeline for completing work, and adjust the timeline as necessary
3. Advance the next steps of the work

Next Steps:

1. Science Panel initiates work to address guiding questions
2. PSP staff and Science Panel scope the Fall workshop
3. Complete a communications strategy for the PSSU and Policy Implications products

Attachments:

- Policy Implications scoping document – July 8, 2010 (pdf)
- Guiding Questions document – August 13, 2010 (pdf)
- Project Gantt chart – August 13, 2010 (pdf)

**Policy Implications for the Action Agenda from the Puget Sound Science Update
Scoping Document
July 8, 2010**

Owners: Science Panel – scoping and substance; David Dicks and PSP policy staff – scoping, project management, and communication planning

Audience: The primary audience is policy/decision makers encompassing the Leadership Council, the Ecosystem Coordination Board, the Governor, legislators, the federal and state caucuses, Action Agenda implementers and stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations. Additional audiences include the Puget Sound science community – to inform their approach to developing science programs and projects to influence or inform the recovery of Puget Sound – and the media.

Product(s):

- A written report of approximately 10 pages
- A short set of key findings/messages to be delivered in presentations and communication tools
- A posting on the PSP webpage highlighting the product
- Press release for media outreach

Purposes:

- distill the fundamental and timely inputs of the Puget Sound Science Update for the Action Agenda, and facilitate their incorporation into the policy dialog guiding implementation, priority setting, distribution of resources, work planning, and adaptation related to the Action Agenda;
- inform the development of the scope of the 2011 assessment of Action Agenda effectiveness;
- show how science is being incorporated into the adaptation of the Action Agenda strategies to ensure their effectiveness;
- provide a model for incorporating future science products into policy-making

Development and Communication Strategy and Timeline:

1. PSP policy staff and Science Panel: prepare the document scope and questions, gather input from additional affected and interested parties: **May-June**
2. PSP policy staff: organize agenda time at ECB and LC meetings for discussion involving Science Panel members regarding the document scope and questions: **July**
3. PSP policy staff and Science Panel: finalize the scope and questions: **Beginning of August**
4. Science Panel: develop draft addressing the questions; preview a full draft and make improvements for clarity and focus: **August-September**
5. Hold a workshop inviting members of LC, ECB, Science Panel, and PSP policy staff to review a complete draft and potential key messages: **Fall 2010**
6. Science Panel and PSP policy staff: produce final draft of implications document and additional supporting products: **Late Fall 2010**

Policy Implications for the Action Agenda from the Puget Sound Science Update
Guiding Questions for Hand-Off to the Science Panel
August 13, 2010

The following questions are posed to the Science Panel as a guide for distilling the policy implications of the Puget Sound Science Update. The Science Panel will now begin addressing these questions. If, as the Science Panel proceeds with this task, it finds value in adjusting these questions to better ensure meeting the purposes of this project¹, it will apprise PSP staff of the recommended changes and they will together agree on the appropriate adjustments.

In re: Threats

Based on the information captured in the Science Update...

1. Has the current or future importance of specific threats, as reflected by the Action Agenda priorities, changed? If so, how?
2. Has the urgency (e.g., immediate need for restorative actions or increased funding) to address specific threats changed, even if their relative importance has not? If so, how?
3. Are there new threats that need to be accounted for in Action Agenda priorities and implementation efforts?
4. Are the Action Agenda priorities and implementation efforts collectively effectively focusing on the most important threats?
5. Can we better estimate the level of effort necessary to effectively address a threat?

In re: Goal/Target Setting

Based on the information captured in the Science Update...

1. What are the implications of current science for setting of targets/ benchmarks for any indicator? Are we measuring the right elements of the ecosystem to accurately gauge progress toward Puget Sound recovery and inform strategic decisions toward achieving this outcome?
2. Are we measuring indicators and interpreting the related data appropriately through the monitoring and assessment program?
3. Are there any ecosystem indicator thresholds that would suggest changes to ecosystem states that need to be avoided or managed to recover Puget Sound? If so, what are they and how should they be reflected in the Action Agenda?
4. What are effective ways to engage scientists, policy-makers and the public in setting goals/targets?

In re: Strategies

¹ As specified in the July 8, 2011 Scoping Document for the Policy Implications document

Based on the information captured in the Science Update...

1. Are any current strategies to abate specific threats clearly inadequate, i.e., will not improve ecosystem outcomes?
2. Can current strategies be improved or made more efficient (e.g., address multiple threats)?
3. Which strategies for recovery may be more feasible given the social science understanding of public acceptance of different recovery strategies?




































In re: Information Needs






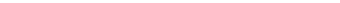

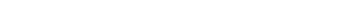

Based on the information captured in the Science Update...

1. In what areas does the lack of natural scientific information most constrain the understanding of risks and uncertainties driving affecting policy decisions?
2. In what areas does the lack of social scientific information most constrain the understanding of risks and uncertainties driving affecting policy decisions?
3. What areas of scientific uncertainty are the most important to address to guide future adaptation and implementation of Action Agenda strategies?
4. The PSSU is organized around these chapters 1) ecosystem indicators, 2) current conditions, 3) threats, and 4) strategies. Could this be reorganized to better inform decisions guiding recovery? If so, how?
5. Which chapters and elements within chapters should the science community focus on for the next PSSU, as a means of improving our strategic approach to Puget Sound recovery?
6. Is there information or data not encompassed in the Science Update that is important to Action Agenda policy considerations and needs to be integrated in the near term? How much effort and what process are appropriate to achieve this integration?

PSSU Policy Implications Document Timeline

August 16, 2010

ID		Task Name	Start	Finish	Contact	May				June				July				August				September				October				November				December			
						4/25	5/2	5/9	5/16	5/23	5/30	6/6	6/13	6/20	6/27	7/4	7/11	7/18	7/25	8/1	8/8	8/15	8/22	8/29	9/5	9/12	9/19	9/26	10/3	0/1	0/1	0/2	0/3	11/7	1/1	1/2	1/2
1																																					
2		Prepare Initial Product Scope and Guidance Questions	Mon 5/3/10	Mon 6/7/10	DSJ/Neuman																																
3																																					
4		Discuss Product Scope and Questions with Science Panel	Tue 6/8/10	Tue 6/8/10	DSJ/Science Panel																																
5																																					
6		Revise Scope and Questions	Thu 6/10/10	Wed 7/7/10	DSJ/Quinn																																
7																																					
8		Solicit Further Feedback from Science Panel on Scope and Questions	Mon 6/14/10	Wed 7/7/10	Quinn																																
9																																					
10		Provide Product Materials to Tammy for ECB Meeting Packet	Thu 7/8/10	Thu 7/8/10	DSJ																																
11																																					
12		Phone Call Briefing for ECB Members	Wed 7/14/10	Wed 7/14/10	DSJ/Neuman																																
13																																					
14		<i>PSSU Implications Agenda Item at ECB Meeting</i>	Thu 7/15/10	Thu 7/15/10	DSJ/Quinn																																
15																																					
16		Provide Product Materials to Tammy for LC Meeting Packet	Thu 7/22/10	Thu 7/22/10	DSJ																																
17																																					
18		<i>PSSU Implications Agenda Item at LC Meeting</i>	Thu 7/29/10	Thu 7/29/10	DSJ/Quinn																																
19																																					
20		Finalize Scope and Questions for Handoff to Science Panel	Fri 7/30/10	Fri 8/13/10	DSJ/Quinn																																
21																																					
22		Get Any Additional ECB Input From Josh as ECB Point Person	Mon 8/9/10	Fri 8/13/10	DSJ																																
23																																					
24		Prepare First Draft of Answers to Questions	Mon 8/16/10	Mon 10/4/10	Quinn/Science Panel																																
25																																					
26		Discuss Product Communication Approach for PSSU and Implications (Thuch getng date)	Mon 8/16/10	Fri 8/20/10	uin/Ransley/Mendizabal																																
27																																					
28		<i>Science Panel Meeting - Review Scope and Questions</i>	Tue 8/24/10	Wed 8/25/10	Quinn/DSJ																																
29																																					
30		DSJ OUT	Wed 8/25/10	Mon 9/6/10	DSJ																																
31																																					
32		Develop Status Update Materials for ECB and LC Meetings	Tue 8/31/10	Thu 9/2/10	Quinn (w/ Neuman?)																																
33																																					
34		Provide Status Update Materials to Tammy for ECB Packet	Fri 9/3/10	Fri 9/3/10	Quinn (w/ Neuman?)																																
35																																					
36		Provide Status Update Materials to Tammy for LC Packet	Thu 9/9/10	Thu 9/9/10	DSJ/Quinn																																
37																																					
38		<i>PSSU Implications Update Agenda Item at ECB Meeting</i>	Fri 9/10/10	Fri 9/10/10	DSJ/Quinn																																

Project: PSSU Policy Implications Doc Date: Mon 8/16/10	Task		Progress		Summary		External Tasks		Deadline	
	Split		Milestone		Project Summary		External Milestone			

PSSU Policy Implications Document Timeline

August 16, 2010

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